

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area. I have lived in many States throughout the country and have been amazed at the arrogance and lack of customer focus of the local cable companies.

The cable markets are dominated by large multistate corporations, such as Comcast and AT&T. Allowing companies to gain critical economies of scale to compete helps the consumer. Furthermore, allowing companies that can develop and implement new technologies to create businesses that can challenge the status quo is fundamental to the progress of society. I am quite sure that as technology changes and improves another business will develop to challenge these satellite providers and cable providers and this is good for everyone. Government must foster not hinder the development of competition. Competitive markets benefit all consumers forcing old-line companies to improve and new companies to be more creative.

I currently have only one option for broadband access to the Internet and that is through the local cable company. The prices are significantly higher from other than those in other parts of the country where alternative broadband access is available. The combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

William Matakas
821 Tremont Drive
Downingtown, PA 19335